GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:127
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2016
Farm Income
Kushwaha Shri Ram Kumar Sharma;Natterjee Shri J. Jayasingh Thiyagaraj

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the income from farm sector is less as compared to that of industrial and service sectors and the farmers are leaving the profession of agriculture and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the Government proposes to formulate a new policy/scheme for farming sector so as to increase income of farmers;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/being taken by the Government to make the agriculture a viable profession and give the farmers a special and different treatment;

(d) whether any panel/expert group has recommended reduction in the investment in agriculture as well as in irrigation in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
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(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 127 DUE FOR REPLY ON 3RD MAY, 2016.

(a) to (c): Income from farm sector is less as compared to income from industrial and services sector. Though, the share of agriculture sector in total Gross Value Added in 2015-16 is only 15.3 percent at 2011-12 prices, the share of agricultural workers in the total workers in the country is 54.6 percent (Census 2011). Whereas the industry and services sector together account for 84.7 per cent of the Gross Value Added and only 45.40 percent of the total workers are engaged in these two sectors. As per the Census data, the total number of agricultural workers in the country increased from 234.1 million in 2001 to 263.0 million in 2011. Therefore, it cannot be categorically stated that farmers are leaving the profession of agriculture.

Less income is due to low productivity in the agricultural sector, on account of preponderance of small and marginal holdings coupled with uncertainty of weather, lack of market access, lack of access to irrigation, etc.

Government has taken various steps to increase the income of farmers. The schemes formulated by Government are aimed at increasing the production and productivity of the farmers, reducing their cost and market reform. These, inter-alia, include: Krishionnati Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana, Soil Health Card and Soil Health Management, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana, Organic Value Chain in North Eastern States, National Agriculture and Technology Mission, National Food Security Mission, National Sustainable Agriculture Mission, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, creation of national market and increasing access to agricultural credit etc.

(d) & (e): No, Madam.

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